

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2015

The Honorable Michael Botticelli
Director
Office of National Drug Control Policy
750 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Director Botticelli,

Given our shared concern about the growing rate of overdose deaths associated with prescription painkillers and heroin in Appalachia and throughout the nation, we urge the Administration to ensure that overdose prevention, specifically through the use of naloxone, remains a priority issue. Despite the life-saving capabilities of naloxone, its use in overdose related death prevention is not yet widespread.

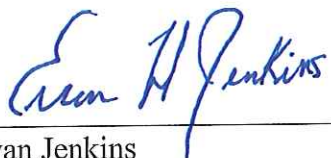
We call on the Administration to identify existing sources of funding which can be reprogrammed to provide adequate financial assistance for state and local governments, as well as community organizations, to purchase and distribute naloxone to first responders, law enforcement officials, medical facilities, and members of at-risk individuals' communities. We know that expanding naloxone access to a broader population, combined with immediately seeking emergency medical care, can reverse drug overdoses and save lives.

In addition, we call on the Administration to propose and implement innovative ways to integrate naloxone throughout the health care delivery system. For example, HHS should act to establish and promote best practices for co-prescribing naloxone with certain opioid formulations and in certain patient populations.

Tragically, too many Americans have been lost to opioid overdose, and many of those deaths are preventable. We look forward to working with you on this issue to develop a strategy that provides resources to improve naloxone availability and save lives. We appreciate your consideration of these proposals and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress


Evan Jenkins
Member of Congress



Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



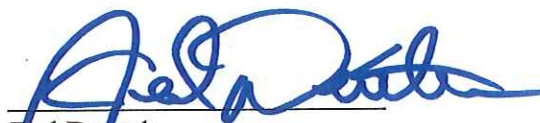
Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



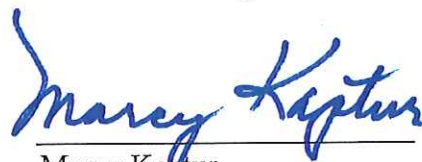
Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Robert J. Dold
Member of Congress



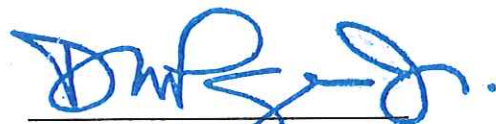
Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
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Donald Norcross
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.
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Tim Ryan
Member of Congress


Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress


Elizabeth H. Etsy
Member of Congress


Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress


Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

cc: Shaun Donovan, Director, OMB
Sylvia Burwell, Secretary, HHS